

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 14, 18-20, 23, 26, 39-41, 45-48 and 50-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,211,805 to Srinivasan (“Srinivasan”).

Claims 22 and 31-33 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 15-17, 22, 24, 25, 27-30, 34-38, 42-44 and 49 are allowed.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

Applicants have added new claims 57-62.

Claims 14-62 are pending.

Matters of Form

In the Office Action, claim 22 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. At page 3, the Office Action goes on to describe that “the following is allowable: ‘a molten processed region which is a region subject to melting within the substrate, and a refractive index change region which is a region with a changed refractive index within the substrate.’” However, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22 does not recite such a feature. Applicants note that the Office Action also indicates

that claim 22 is allowed, and does not address the status of claim 21. Applicants also note that claim 21 does recite “a molten processed region which is a region subject to melting within the substrate, and a refractive index change region which is a region with a changed refractive index within the substrate.” Based on these, Applicants believe that the Office Action includes an inadvertent typographical error- i.e. the Office Action should recite that claim 21 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully request clarification in this regard in a next Office communication.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-17, 22, 24, 25, 27-30, 34-38, 42-44 and 49 are allowed, and claims 31-33 are indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for allowing the claims and for indicating the allowable subject matter.

Claims 14, 18-20, 23, 26, 39-41, 45-48 and 50-56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Srinivasan. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Applicants submit that Srinivasan is directed to a method of cutting an organic solid with continuous wave ultraviolet irradiation. According to Srinivasan, a laser (beam) is transmitted through a focusing lens 16 to a spot 18 on a surface of an organic solid 20 (see column 6, lines 11-13). Further, the laser makes grooves extending from a surface of the organic solid in a direction perpendicular to the surface of the organic solid, to a back surface of the organic solid to cut the organic solid. That is to say, the cutting is so called “ablation.” In contrast, Applicants’ invention according to independent claims 14, 18-20, 23, 26, 39, 41, 45-48, 50 and 51 is directed to converging a laser

light within a substrate to make a starting point for cutting in a substrate inside by a predetermined distance from a laser light incident face of the substrate. That is, in Applicants' invention, the laser light is focused not on a surface of the substrate but within the substrate. Further, Applicants' substrate is not cut by "ablation," that is, Applicants' substrate is not cut by making grooves extending from one surface of the substrate to the other surface of the substrate.

The dependent claims recite the same combination of features recited in the respective independent claims, as well as additional features that define over the prior art. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 14, 18-20, 23, 26, 39-41, 45-48 and 50-56, be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Applicants have added new claims 57-62. Support for new claims 57-62 is provided throughout Applicants' specification as originally filed. Applicants submit that new claims 57-62 are allowable at least for their dependence on respective independent claims that are either allowed or submitted to be allowable for the reasons described above. Examination of new claims 57-62 is respectfully requested. An early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

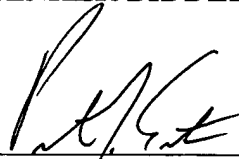
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0573. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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